

R E M A R K S

In the Office Action dated November 18, 2004, claims 1-8, 10, 11 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ratzel. Claims 9, 12-14 and 16 were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By the present Amendment, the subject matter of claim 9, with some editorial revisions, has been embodied in independent claim 1, and claim 9 has been cancelled. The subject matter of claim 12 (which includes claim 11) has been embodied in independent claim 10, and claims 11 and 12 have been cancelled. The dependency of claims 13, 14 and 15 has been changed in view of the cancellation of claim 12.

In view of the indicated allowability of claims 9 and 12, all claims of the application are submitted to be in condition for allowance. Early reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Submitted by,

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